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CHESTERFIELD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
for the Year
1941

BY

JOHN REID GRAHAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

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INDEX

	Page.
Housing:—	
Statistics	9-10
Inspection of Meat	11
Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease:—	
Scarlet Fever	12
Diphtheria	12
Measles	13
Whooping Cough	13
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	13
Enteric Fever	13
Diphtheria Immunisation	13
Public Health Staff	4
Rural District Councillors, December, 1941	3
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area:—	
Sewage and Sewerage Disposal	8
Statistics and Social Conditions	6-7

TABLES.

Bacteriological Examinations	11
Birth Rate, Death Rate and Analysis of Mortality during 1941	14
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	17
Infectious Diseases	12
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	12
Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108	17
Sanitary Administration	16
Sanitary Administration (Dairies)	15

PRINTERS ERRORS.

Page 6. Illegitimat Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births

73.77 should be 73.17.

Page 11. Caracsses should be Carcasses.

MEAT INSPECTIONS.

Page 11. Second and Third Paragraphs. Should read.

There are 39 slaughter houses in the district, none of which are being used.

There are also two knacker's premises in the district, to these 30 visits have been paid during the year.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Page 15. Bottom of table marked with a star. Should read.

No Slaughter-houses in use, only 2 knackers premises.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

31st December, 1941.

ATTENBOROUGH, J., Wessington.
BALLANCE, F., Beighton.
BARRS, Alfred Josiah, Heath.
BIRDS, J., Brook Lynn, Holymoorside.
BECKETT, Alfred, Ridgeway Ward, Eckington.
BRADLEY, Frederick (Senior), Stretton.
BRIERLEY, James, Shirland & Higham Ward.
CLEMENTS, John William, J.P., North Wingfield.
FENSOME, Sidney Thomas, J.P., Pilsley.
GASCOYNE, P., The Croft, North Wingfield.
GOODLAD, John, Barlow.
HADLEY, G., J.P., Stonebroom.
HARDY, William George, Wingerworth.
HARGREAVES, A., Vernon Rise, Grassmoor.
HERRIOTT, Cornelius, Frecheville.
HOLMES, J. T., Brimington.
KAY, Horace, Eckington.
KAY, Robert, Holmesfield.
KENNING, C. B. (Mrs.), J.P., C.C., Ashover.
LAMB, Thomas, Somerset House, Calow.
LATHAM, William Leeke, Revd., Morton.
MARSHALL, H., Sheffield Road, Killamarsh.
PEAT, Edwin, J.P., C.A., Mosborough Ward, Eckington.
PHIPPS, Henry, J.P., C.C., Brimington.
RIGGOTT, G. A., Over Newbold, Brampton Ward.
RANKIN, A. H. (Dr.), Main Road, Renishaw.
SALES, Samuel, Tupton.
SHARMAN, Walter, Unstone.
STATON, James, J.P., C.C., Beighton.
STIRLING, William, Temple Normanton.
SWINDELL, Joseph, Killamarsh.
TURBUTT, Richard Babington (Colonel), J.P., Brackenfield.
WHITMORE, Thomas, Hasland.
WOOD, Hiram, Frecheville.
WOODBINE, Wilfred Walter, Sutton-cum-Duckmanton.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

JOHN R. GRAHAM, M.B., Ch.B. (St. And.), D.P.H. (St. And.)

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTORS :

T. W. BINNS, Cert. S.I., Cert. Meat Inspector.

F. WATERFALL, Cert. S.I., Cert. Meat Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTORS :

T. F. AYRTON, Cer. S.I., Cert. Meat Inspector.

W. E. BOLTON, Cert. S.I. Cert. Meat Inspector.

E. A. GREGORY, Cert. S.I., Cert. Meat Inspector.
(Resigned 20th April, 1941).

W. T. POWELL, Cert. S.I., (Resigned 31st May, 1941).

H. CORMACK, Cert. S.I., Cert. Meat Inspector.
(Appointed 27th October, 1941).

CLERKS :

MRS. D. BALL.

MRS. J. CURRY (Appointed October, 1941).

G. F. WILKS, H.M.F., January, 1941.

H. WATTS.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Kenning and Gentlemen,

On the instructions of the Ministry of Health the Annual Report has had to be cut down even more than last year. Statistics showing population figures must not be published, nor any statistics published from which a population figure could be built up.

All the figure tables, etc., have been compiled and any Councillor can be given information on any table which has been omitted.

The birth rate, after showing a drop of over 2 per 1,000 in the year 1940, has this year almost risen to pre-war level.

The death rate also shows a decrease this year, but is still slightly above pre-war level.

It is pleasing to be able to report that the health of the district is satisfactory. Despite the more rigid rationing which has been in force during the year there is no evidence of malnutrition among the children.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN R. GRAHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
Rural Council House,
Saltergate,
Chesterfield.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Birth Rate.

18.58 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

Death Rate.

10.96 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	None.
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	3

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	46.19
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate Live Births	45.30
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	73.77
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	3
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	3

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

In my preface, I mentioned that so far there had been no evidence of malnutrition among the children ; in fact, I am of the opinion that the general standard of health is in some ways better.

There is a decrease in the notifications of most infectious diseases, and in going round the schools I have formed the opinion that the children are more alert.

Lack of easy transport, blackout and earlier hours of closing of picture houses have, I am certain, caused an earlier bedtime for very many of the children. This in itself is a great asset as many observers pre-war were convinced that one of the factors in causing malnutrition in children was lack of sufficient sleep.

It would seem, therefore, that possibly this factor is compensating for any cut in foodstuffs.

Another factor, too, that will help is that there is practically no unemployment, and generally speaking the wage level has increased sufficiently to counter balance the increased cost of living, and consequently the great majority of families have more food purchasing power.

The two Hostels for evacuee children who are unsuitable for private billets continue to be kept busy. When originally instituted it was thought that many of the children would be able to be rebilled. It has been our experience, however, that with very few exceptions rebilling has not been successful.

Housing.

The housing position, however, is not satisfactory. There is a lot of overcrowding, and owing to the restriction in building the position is likely to get worse.

So far the Ministry of Health have resolutely declined to grant any latitude in allowing houses which have been the subject of a demolition or clearance order to be re-let.

It is a moot point whether it is worse from a health point of view for people to live in grossly overcrowded conditions, or to live in houses which in peace time standards are unfit for human habitation.

If any concession were allowed (and this Council have already applied to the Ministry for such a concession and have been refused in respect of the Blocks, Stonebroom), some improvement in the housing conditions could be affected.

With regard to the Blocks referred to above, I am gravely perturbed. The Sanitary conveniences are in an appalling condition, in fact, it is little exaggeration to say that they do not exist. If one of the inhabitants were to contact any of the gastro intestinal infections there would be grave risk of a serious spread, as all the privies give easy access to cats, rats and dogs, etc.

The houses themselves are rapidly deteriorating, in many instances one finds an occupied house in a block flanked by two empty houses. This increases the dampness of the occupied house as the two empty houses soon become derelict shells.

If one Block could be fully occupied, i.e., occupiers from a partially empty block transferred to empty houses in one of the better conditioned blocks, this would make for quite an improvement in the conditions.

Similar conditions exist in other parts of the district, but on a much smaller scale.

SEWAGE AND SEWERAGE DISPOSAL.

The following are brief particulars of works of sewerage and sewage disposal carried out during the year, which have been supplied by J. B. Wikeley, Esq., M.Eng., A.M.Inst. C.E., Engineer and Surveyor.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. No major constructional works have, of course, been carried out during 1941, and the only sewage disposal works laid down during the year was that at Amber House, in connection with the group billet. Considerable alteration to the drainage system was also necessary, and baths and sanitary conveniences have been provided.

Owing to the general situation, the shortage of labour, and a policy of cutting down maintenance work to a minimum, very little indeed has been done in the way of reconstruction and repair, and such work as has been done has been limited to matters of urgency such as the relaying of short lengths of defective sewers which have necessitated immediate action.

In the matter of the essential service of the maintenance of sewage disposal works, the position has been made difficult owing to the calling up for military service of a number of Attendants, and the work is being carried out with depleted staff. Here again, the policy has been to accept a somewhat reduced standard of treatment recognising that the essential matter at stake is the winning of the war, a fact which, self-evident as it should be, is unfortunately not universally recognised.

The number of additional properties connected to sewers during the past year has naturally been very small, but a few such dwelling houses at Old Brampton have been connected to the new sewerage system thus removing a possible source of pollution to the water supply reservoirs.

Air Raid Shelters. Very substantial progress has been made in the provision of shelter accommodation for the inhabitants of the district. General authority for the construction of surface shelters in rural areas was not given until the middle of 1940, but immediately on the granting of this authority, work was put in hand and provision in this form of shelter has been made for very nearly one half of the eligible population.

Bunks have been provided in many of the shelters, but it is a matter of very great concern that in some parts of the district shelters are being put to illegitimate uses, and in others the most wanton damage is being caused.

Other activities. Two buildings have been erected as Social Centres at Eckington and Mosborough respectively by my Department for the Ministry of Health. These buildings are of a substantial size, although of special wartime construction, and make comfortable quarters for the purpose intended, and might very well form the nuclei of communal centres after the termination of hostilities.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year 1941 :—
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 63
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 196
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 —
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose —
 - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation —
 - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation —
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 21
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—
 - (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 16
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By Owners 6
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	44
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	30
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order	—

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	287
(2) Number of persons dwelling therein	2009
(3) Number of families dwelling therein	379
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	30
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	—
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	—
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—

5. Number of houses demolished in Clearance Areas, 1941

CONVERSIONS OF WATER CLOSETS IN 1941.

Privy Middens	30
Pail Closets	—
Total	30

MEAT INSPECTIONS.

Mr. F. Waterfall has submitted the following report in connection with Meat and Foods Inspection throughout the district, for the year ending 31st December, 1941.

There are 39 slaughter houses in the district, 11 of which are being used, to these 30 visits have been paid during the year.

There are also two knacker's premises in the district. These are visited periodically.

The number of carcasses inspected during the year were as follows :—

Pigs 148.

A total of 194 lbs. of diseased or unfit meat was surrendered from these carcasses, particulars of which are given below.

Pig's Head.

Tuberculosis 194 lbs.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS, 1941.

Table showing the number of specimens sent from the Rural District, and examined at the County Laboratory, Derby.

	Pos.	Neg.
Enterica :—		
Typhoid, Para-Typhoid A. & B.	—	13
Gaertner. Dysentery, etc.	—	13
Diphtheria	27	154
Phthisis	11	78
Milk :—		
T.B. Inoculation. Sent from Ministry of Agriculture	10	38
T.B. Inoculation Routine Samples	—	—
Methylene Blue Test	1	3
Bacillus Coli	—	4
Miscellaneous	8	44
	57	347

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES.			Vision Un- Impaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Notified	Treated.					
	At home.	In Hospital				
4	2	2	4	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Number Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	119	105	—
Diphtheria	96	91	3
Enteric Fever	3	3	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	12	5	—
Puerperal Fever			
Cerebro- Spinal Meningitis	33	33	6
Pneumonia	189	—	46
Erysipelas	31	1	—
Polio-myelitis	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	4	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Undulant Fever	—	—	—
Measles	618	2	2
Whooping Cough	542	1	3

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifications of all the notifiable infectious diseases, with the exception of whooping cough, show a marked decrease.

Scarlet Fever.

Notifications number 119 as against 168 for the previous year. No deaths occurred from this disease.

Diphtheria.

Notifications numbered 96 with 3 deaths, giving a case mortality of 3.1%. The figures for 1940 were 131 notifications, 4 deaths, case mortality 3.05%.

Measles.

618 cases were notified, as against 1,773 during 1940. There were 2 deaths, giving a case mortality of 0.32%.

Whooping Cough.

This disease showed a marked increase in notification. 542 cases were notified, against 87 cases in the previous year. 1 death occurred from this disease.

Cerebro Spinal Fever.

Showed a gratifying decrease, 33 cases were notified, against 79 in 1940. 6 deaths were due to this disease, giving a case mortality of 18.1%. This case mortality is an increase, 1.7% on last year's case mortality figures, though it compares favourably with previous year's case mortality figures of 30—40%.

Enteric Fever.

Three cases were notified. There were no deaths.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Immunisation has been carried out throughout the year against diphtheria and approximately 50% of the child population have been treated. Many parents who at first refused to have their children treated, on learning that the treatment causes practically no disturbance to the child, have made requests for treatment for their children. I am hopeful that by the end of 1942 over 75% of the children in the district will be immunised.

**BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF
MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES
FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR
1941. PROVISIONAL FIGURES BASED ON WEEKLY AND
QUARTERLY RETURNS.**

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	Chester- field R.D.C.
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population					
Births—					
Live	14.2	14.7	16.4	8.9	18.52
Still	0.51	0.58	0.60	0.33	0.06
Deaths—					
All Causes	12.9	14.9	13.0	16.3	10.96
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.042
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.03	0.042
Influenza	0.19	0.17	0.20	0.15	0.112
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.028
Notifications—					
Typhoid Fever	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.03
Paratyphoid Fever	0.09	0.12	0.09	0.05	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.25	0.31	0.20	0.30	0.04
Scarlet Fever	1.47	1.49	1.51	1.01	1.68
Whooping Cough	4.39	4.37	4.50	3.50	7.59
Diphtheria	1.25	1.53	1.19	0.93	1.37
Erysipelas	0.30	0.36	0.27	0.50	0.43
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	10.33	8.27	10.47	4.77	8.69
Pneumonia	1.25	1.53	1.04	1.07	2.78
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age	59	71	56	68	61
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 yrs. of age	5.1	7.5	4.6	6.8	2.27
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still).					
Maternal Mortality (Excluding Abortion)					
Puerperal Infection (No. 147)	0.48	} Not Available			
Others	1.75				2.19
Total	2.23				2.19
Notifications—					
Puerperal Fever	} 11.91	15.64	9.43	2.29	} 9.52
Puerperal Pyrexia				19.33	

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

	No. on Register.	Inspections made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances abated with or without notice.
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	611	255	3	136
Bakehouses	19	1	—	—
*Slaughter-houses ..	41	30	—	5
Offensive Trades ..	1	1	—	—
Common Lodging Houses	1	1	—	—
TOTAL ..	673	288	3	141

* 11 Slaughter-houses in use including 2 knackers premises.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Summary of the Work of the Sanitary Department.

	No. of inspections made by Sanitary Inspector:	No. of Notices Served.		No. of Nuisances abated with or without notice.
		Informal.	Legal.	
Closets and Ashpits—				
Defective Privies, Pail Closets and Ashpits (not for conversion) ..	15	36	3	23
Conversion of Privies into W.C.'s	86	38	—	30
Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C.'s	34	—	—	—
Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets ..	—	—	—	—
Defective Water Closets..	46	29	2	18
Provision of additional W.C.'s	40	2	—	23
Provision of Portable Ashbins	193	163	10	118
Dirty Closets	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation	64	—	—	—
Drainage—				
No disconnection of waste pipe	—	—	—	—
Defective waste pipe, Traps, Inlets & Drains	191	55	4	23
Drains obstructed ..	70	15	6	39
Other Defects—				
Paving of Courts and Yards	54	22	—	9
Roofs, Eaves-Spouts and Downspouts	28	63	5	54
Sinks	11	15	—	9
Insufficient Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—
Windows	11	13	4	9
Dampness	10	28	2	14
Water in Cellars	51	5	—	5
Water Supply	707	1	—	—
Overcrowding	2	—	—	—
Foul Condition of Houses	16	4	—	2
Offensive Accumulations	3	3	—	1
Animals improperly kept	—	—	—	—
Pigsties	6	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	3	—	—	—
Urinals	13	12	—	5
Nuisances not specified above	1904	127	5	41
TOTAL	3558	631	41	423

No. of visits to Evacuees, 365.

No. of visits to Infectious Disease cases, 316.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Inspections of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	6	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	—	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
TOTAL	6	—	—

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.

Net repairing 1

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT.

31 visits have been made in connection with rat infestation, and approximately 989 rats have been destroyed.

Cyanogas, Rodine and Red Squill baits are used for rat destruction, and refuse tips are treated with these poisons from time to time.

